

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended). An apparatus for portion cutting of food products, said apparatus comprising  
cutting means (2) for sectioning the products (1);  
scanning means (6) for detecting at least one characteristic of the product;  
conveying means (4) for transporting the product from the scanning means to the cutting means, and  
control means for controlling and regulating at least one relevant cutting process parameters in order to achieve predetermined product portions based on the detected product characteristics,  
characterised in that  
the conveying means comprises at least one conveyor unit (4) having at least two substantially parallel conveyors (4a; 4b) each having an upper conveying belt surface, said upper conveying belt surfaces being angled relative to each other with adjacent edges of the upper conveying belt surfaces being in proximity to each other, so that the conveying belt surfaces of the conveyors collectively form a ~~generally~~ substantially U- or V-shaped configuration in a traverse direction of the conveying direction with the upper conveying belt surfaces of laterally adjacent conveyors having a mutual angle different from 180° in said transverse direction.
2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the conveying means (3, 4, 5) comprises a first conveyor unit (3) for receiving the products and downstream of the first conveyor unit (3) a second conveyor unit (4) which takes the products to the cutting means (2) and a third conveyor unit (5) which transports the sectioned products away from the cutting means (2).
3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the first conveyor unit (3) also comprises two parallel mutually inclined conveyors (3a, 3b).

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the third conveyor unit (5) also comprises two parallel mutually inclined conveyors (5a, 5b).
5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the parallel conveyors (3a, 3b; 4a, 4b; 5a, 5b) of the conveyor units (3, 4, 5) are arranged with the same mutual inclination in each of the conveyor units (3, 4, 5).
6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the scanning means (6) are arranged between the first and the second conveyor units (3, 4).
7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the scanning means (6) includes a scanner adapted to perform a 360° scanning of the products.
8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the two mutually inclined pair of conveyors (3a, 3b; 4a, 4b; 5a, 5b) of the conveyor unit (4) or units (3, 4, 5) are both inclined with the same angle relative to horizontal forming a V-shaped conveyor configuration.
9. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the angle of inclination of the pairs of conveyors (3a, 3b; 4a, 4b; 5a, 5b) is adjustable, preferably between 0° to 40° relative to horizontal, so that a V-form with a mutual angle of the upper conveyor surfaces is preferably between 100° to 180°.
10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the angle of inclination is automatically adjustable.
11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the angles of inclination of all the conveyor units are substantially the same.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein common drive means are provided for driving the pair of mutually inclined conveyors (3a, 3b; 4a, 4b; 5a, 5b) with the same conveying velocity.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the conveyors is provided with an elastic conveyor belt having an inclined upper conveying belt surface over a support structure and a lower run where the belt is turned to a horizontal configuration where the belt is engaged by the drive means.

14. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said drive means including a drive roller with engagement pins cooperating with traction holes in the conveyor belt; said conveyor belt being held in tension support rollers by leading the belt in a loop run over the drive roller.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the drive rollers of the adjacent two conveyors in a conveyor unit are arranged on a common drive shaft.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control means is adapted to regulate the conveyor velocity of the conveyor unit (4) and the rate of the cutting means in response to a computation of the input of the scanning means and predetermined portion type information.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cutting means (2) includes a rotating knife (10) that is positioned to cutting the products (1) between the second and third conveyor units (4, 5).

18. (Previously Presented). An apparatus for portion cutting of food products, said apparatus comprising

cutting means for sectioning the products;

scanning means for detecting at least one characteristic of the product;

conveying means for transporting the product from the scanning means to the cutting

means, and

control means for controlling and regulating at least one relevant cutting process parameter to achieve predetermined product portions based on the detected product characteristics,

wherein the conveying means comprises at least one conveyor unit having a conveyor belt which is turned into a U-shape in a direction traverse to the conveying direction, laterally outer edge portions of the conveyor belt being supported on oppositely angled sets of rollers.